

Remarks

In the Office Action, claims 2-4 and 15 are allowed. Claims 1, 9, 12, and 16-26 were rejected. In this response, claims 1, 9, 12, and 16-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27-30 have been added and include generally similar recitations to those of the allowed claims. Therefore, claims 2-4, 15, and 27-30 are currently pending and in condition for allowance.

Examiner Interview

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview held on January 11, 2010, in which the Applicants discussed the addition of claims 27-30 into the application in an after final amendment. The Examiner agreed with the propriety of the amendment and that should the remaining rejected claims be canceled, the application would move to allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 was objected to because it included a minor typographical error. The Applicants note that the claim has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering its rejection moot.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 9, 12, and 16-26

These claims were rejected under either § 102(b) or § 103(a) over various prior art references. The Applicants respectfully note that the claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

New Claims

Claims 27-30

The new claims include generally similar features to those of allowed claims 2-4 and 15. Consequently, for at least the same reasons that claims 2-4 and 15 are allowable, claims 27-30 are similarly allowable.

Conclusion

The Applicants submit that all the claims in the present application, specifically claims 2-4, 15, and 27-30 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2408. Also, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

Dated: January 20, 2010

/Robert McDowell /
Robert McDowell
Registration No. 59,062

Pacwest Center, Suite 1600-1900
1211 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204